Accidents due to cracks in wheels

468. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that eleven recent accidents have been caused due to cracks in the wheels supplied by Durgapur Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Railways against the Durgapur Steel Plant;

(c) whether enquiry has been ordered by the Railways to find out the causes for recent accident; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) There have been five incidents of wheel breakage on run in the calendar year 2003 which have resulted in accidents. All incidents relate to wheels supplied by Durgapur Steel Plant.

(b) Action has been taken by deputing Quality Audit teams from Railways and Research, Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO) to Durgapur Steel Plant for improving quality of steel and the process of manufactures.

(c) and (d) All consequential train accidents are enquired into either by a departmental committee of Railway officers or by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, or by a Judicial Commission.

Collision of Rohtak bound passenger train

469. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the collision of Tilak bridge-Rohtak passenger train with a shunting engine at Shakur Basti yard on the 23rd August, 2003, was due to staff failure as per the enquiry conducted by the Northern Railway Commissioner of Railway Safety;

(b) if so, the nature of staff failures, the circumstances leading to such failures and why mechancial devices could not warn about the impending failure; and